Charlotte Catholic’s Musical Theater Competition Troupe is returning to California to compete in the Musical Theater Competition of America for the second year in a row.

The team, comprising juniors and seniors, has again qualified for the finals of the tournament, which will be held in Los Angeles, California. Last year, with a strong second place finish , the team established Charlotte Catholic’s name in the country’s theater community.

To enter the competition, each group chooses a composer and performs only his songs in every entry. This year, the team chose pieces by Cole Porter, known the musicals *Anything Goes* and *Kiss me, Kate*.

“It’s a really great selection. Cole Porter’s stuff is well known and fun to dance to. It’s really cool to make it our own,” said senior Natalie Myrick.

“It’s very fun and flirty, and it’s easy to get into character with such upbeat songs,” said senior Caitlyn Balkcum.

New and returning team members are dying in anticipation of their February 10 departure. In fact, when asked how they felt about the upcoming trip, all of the interviewed troupe members had one word to say.

“I’m so crazy excited,” said senior Joe Townsend. “It’s going to be totally new for me, and I get to do it with the people I love.”

“I’m even more excited than last time,” said junior Jenna Newman. “It’s going to be so much fun with everyone.”

Despite their enthusiasm, the team knows they had to buckle down and get things done.

“We started rehearsing even earlier this year,” said choral director Mrs. Tippet. “It’s really tough to get everything done and perfect, but these kids bring such professionalism to it, it’s a joy to work with them.”

“We’ve been rehearsing literally every day after school since September,” said Myrick. “But it’s a great time because everyone’s always on task and brings such high energy to rehearsals.”

“It really is a bit of everything. Stressful, and frustrating, but still a lot of fun. I think the hard work will all pay off,” said senior Nick Pierle.

They hope all their hard work will pay off. Many of the members believe they will either match the ranking of last year, or, in the case of returning members, top it.

“I feel like I’ve really improved a lot over the last year,” said junior Zeke Edmonds. “We know what we’re going into now, so it’s going to be bigger and better.”

“We all mesh really well together, too,” said senior Colin Wilson. “It makes a great performance.”

Through the sweat, blood, and dance moves, the team hopes for a high ranking this year.

“It’s hard, but we produced something amazing,” said Wilson. “It’s always fun if you love what you’re doing, and we all do. I’m positive we’ll do great.”